

Serial No. 10/647,468
Docket No.: 2002-249352US
Ref. No. UDA.022

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper because it narrows the issues on appeal and does not require further search by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13, 16-17, 19, 22-23, 26, and 29 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 10, 12, 13, 17, and 19 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 14, 20, 24, and 27 have been cancelled in the interest of expediting prosecution. Claims 2, 4, 7, 11, 15, 18, 21, 25, and 28 were previously canceled.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice, and are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

The Office Action objected that the proposed amendment to the paragraph commencing at page 3, line 24 of the specification had not been identified and suggested a proposed amendment. This has been adopted, overcoming this objection. The undersigned attorney apologizes for not previously having identified the amendment.

The Office Action objected to claim 5 and its dependent claims 6 and 9 due to a purportedly unclear antecedent, and suggested an amendment. This suggestion has been adopted, overcoming this objection.

The Office Action rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

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which the applicant regards as the invention, and/or as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. The Office Action set forth various purported problems and suggested amendments to overcome many of them. The suggestions have been adopted, and the above amendments overcome all the indicated problems. Thus, this rejection is no longer in order.

The courtesy of Examiner Englund in pointing out these things and in providing helpful suggestions is appreciated.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13, 16-17, 19, 22-23, 26, and 29, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and comply with 35 U.S.C. §1121, and so are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including

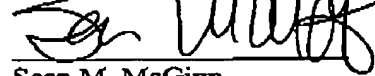
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extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account

No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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